

Serial No. 09/745,006

Docket No. KCC-14,083

3. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

an elongated material having two enlarged end portions and a narrowed portion intermediate said two enlarged end portions, one of said two enlarged end portions corresponding to a back region of said absorbent article; and

said elongated material comprising a fluid impermeable backsheet, a fluid permeable body-side liner attached to one side of said fluid impermeable backsheet, and a flap sheet attached to said fluid permeable body-side liner, said flap sheet including two opposed pleats and being expandable in a direction away from said fluid impermeable backsheet proximate said back region of said absorbent article, whereby the pleats define a pocket therebetween for collection of fecal matter [is formed];

wherein [said flap sheet includes] the two opposed pleats are along opposite sides of said pocket and disposed substantially parallel to a longitudinal centerline of said elongated material.

9. (Twice Amended) A disposable diaper comprising:

a fluid impermeable outer cover, a fluid permeable body-side liner attached to said fluid impermeable outer cover and a flap sheet attached to said fluid permeable body-side liner, said flap sheet including at least two opposed pleats and being expandable in a direction away from said fluid impermeable outer cover whereby a pocket is formed inside said disposable diaper proximate a back region of said disposable diaper and between the pleats;

wherein [said flap sheet comprises at least two] the discrete pleats are disposed along opposed sides of said pocket and substantially parallel to a longitudinal centerline of said diaper.

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18. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

an elongated material having two enlarged end portions and a narrowed portion intermediate the two enlarged end portions, one of the two enlarged end portions corresponding to a back region of the absorbent article; and

the elongated material comprising a fluid impermeable backsheet, a fluid permeable body-side liner attached to one side of the fluid impermeable backsheet, and a pocket sheet having opposed peripheral edges, the opposed peripheral edges attached to the fluid permeable body-side liner, and at least two opposed pleats in the pocket sheet along opposite sides of the pocket sheet and disposed substantially parallel to a longitudinal centerline of the elongated material, whereby upon expansion of the pocket sheet in a direction away from the fluid impermeable backsheet a pocket for collection of fecal matter is formed [by] between the pleats of the pocket sheet.

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting a telephone interview. This proposed Amendment is provided for discussion during the telephone interview on 08 January 2003.